

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney tonight released the following statement after President Obama’s State of the Union address:

“President Obama effectively challenged Washington to focus like a laser on continuing our economic recovery, growing jobs at home, and expanding markets abroad. By emphasizing manufacturing, hiring tax credits, college affordability and the value of associate’s degrees and technical schools, we reinforce the underpinnings of our economy and ensure a workforce whose skills match the challenges we face.

“The President is also on target in calling for immediate, bipartisan action to reverse sequestration and prevent across-the-board, indiscriminate budget cuts. The simple possibility of sequestration already yielded negative GDP growth in the fourth quarter of last year, and allowing it to be implemented would shake the very real progress we are making across our economy. At the same time, the policy President Obama laid out for Afghanistan will help rebalance our military and sharply reduce the strain on our readiness and scarce budget resources.

“Finally, as a Representative from Connecticut—a state rocked by the Newtown shooting and battered by a string of once-in-a-generation storms—I applaud the President’s calls to action on climate change and preventing gun violence. Protecting our children and passing on to them a healthy planet Earth should always be our driving goals.”

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